



**Satellite Broadcasting
and Communications
Association**

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3700
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

March 16, 2016

Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write to you today on behalf of the Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association of America (SBCA), in opposition to Senate Bill 451, which would impose an undue tax burden on non-programming products and services offered by satellite pay-TV providers.

SBCA is the sole national trade association representing the interests of the consumer satellite video and broadband industry. Our members include major satellite video providers and broadband internet providers as well as equipment manufacturers and distributors. Additionally, SBCA represents local, independent businesses who sell and install satellite television service in Connecticut.

Current law imposes a gross earnings tax on satellite pay-TV programming, and Senate Bill 451 would extend the tax to non-programming products and services, such as charges for buying or leasing set-top boxes, or fees for installing or maintaining that equipment. Plainly stated, this bill will increase taxes borne by every Connecticut satellite pay-TV consumers.

Aside from an additional tax burden on consumers, Senate Bill 451 will detrimentally affect the state's economy in other ways. Most directly, evidence shows measures like this will reduce the demand for satellite pay-TV service, and in doing so, will negatively impact Connecticut residences and businesses that are part of the satellite pay-TV industry, including businesses and individuals who support these customers. The livelihoods of these Connecticut residents depends on healthy demand for satellite pay-TV service.

We urge you to reject this effort to levy additional taxes on the nearly 175,000 Connecticut families that subscribe to satellite pay-TV, whom already have the second highest taxes on satellite pay-TV in the nation.

I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you further about the impact of this legislation on Connecticut and the state's pay-TV consumers. You may contact me directly by telephone at (202) 658-9499 or email at mkueck@sbca.org.

Regards,

Megan B. Kueck
Manager, State and Local Government Affairs